APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,837	02/08/2001	Norihiro Nakatsuhama	1614.1123	6812

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EXAMINER
BHAT, ADITYA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2863	

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08 February 2001</u> .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-7</u> is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-7</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

  If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

  a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .   6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Sekine (USPN 5,742,851).

Although, an election has not been made, the examiner will examine the

application as a courtesy to applicant since prior art has already been found. Claims 1 &

5 refer to an abnormality detection device for detecting an abnormality in a

communication bus. Sekine (USPN 5,742,851) teaches monitoring the state of a bus

(Col.6, Lines 28-36) and also teaches a processor (10,20;Col.5, Lines 62-64) that is

capable of monitoring the bus. Although, Sekine (USPN 5,742,851) does not appear to

teach a timer or a comparator, it would be inherent to a processing unit to include both

of these components in order to perform various tasks.

Claims 2-4 & 6, which to the various functions performed by the timer and/or the

comparator. A processor could easily perform these processes and reiterating the

previous rejection they would be inherent to the system taught by Sekine (USPN

5,742,851).

Claim 7 refers to a microcomputer (10,20;Col.5, Lines 62-64) comprising

of a timer counter and a comparator. It would be inherent to any microcomputer to

include a timer counter and a comparator in order to perform various processes. Sekine (USPN 5,742,851) also teaches a CPU (Col.7, Lines 50-51), which is also equivalent to a microcomputer.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Katou (USPN 5,508,997) teaches a bus communication method and communication system, Rickard (USPN 4,736,366) teaches a bus acquisition system, Nambu (USPN 4,747,115) teaches a bus redundancy type apparatus for a transmitting system, Shinpo (JP 408079281A) teaches a diagnostic system for bus fault, Suzuki (JP407321832A) teaches a abnormality detecting method for a two-wire bus, Kanda (JP 405224964 A) teaches a bus abnormality information system, Kanda (JP 402041542 A) teaches a bus abnormality detection processing system for communication processor, Ikeda (JP 02023735 A) teaches a method for checking bus line of a communication system, and Fukushima (JP 01224852 A) teaches a bus fault detecting system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aditya S Bhat whose telephone number is 703-308-0332. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John S Hilten can be reached on 703-308-0719. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-5841 for regular communications and 703-308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-

0956.

Aditya S. Bhat
July 15, 2002

JOHN S. HILTEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800